

Letter Bk. V

[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

Copy of a Letter to Lord Baltimore. Annapolis 23^d June
1768 transmitted by Capt Purdye.

My Ld

Since I did myself the honour to address a Letter to your Ldp the 15th of last Month I have wrote two or three in a hurry to M^r Hamersley advising him of some Occurrences with which I presume he will acquaint your Ldp particularly with my having upon the Death of M^r Bacon inducted M^r Allen into All Saints Parish in Frederick County & with an Account of the Opposition that was made by some of the Parishioners to his taking Possession of it. It being necessary that he should continue to reside here while as Agent he has the management of your Ldps pecuniary Affairs he has engaged a Curate to officiate in his Parish but Threats it seems are thrown out that unless he resides there & actually officiates in person the Question whether he is entitled to the Thirty p^r poll under the Act of Assembly shall be discussed before a Jury (of the County) who in this part of the World are too apt to think themselves competent Judges of the Law as well as of Fact. I hope however that the Peoples Passions will cool before the time of Payment arrives & that matters will not be carried by his Adversaries such great Lengths, for if the point of payment should be contested & a Jury entertaining strong prejudices against him should be persuaded by artful Lawyers to give a general Verdict against the payment I know not by what means Relief could be obtained, & Juries as I have already intimated have sometimes given very extraordinary Verdicts. The Publications with which the Maryland Gazette was for some time filled & the bad Conduct of some among the Clergy seem to have made them & their Thirty p^r poll more thought of lately than ever they were before since the Law was made for the Support of an Established Clergy in the Province. To this having been the Topick of Conversation & some Hints having been dropt of M^r Allens being desirous to introduce some sort of Episcopal or Commissarial Jurisdiction here might I suppose be attributed the Birth of a Bill that was framed last Session in the Lower House & after passing the Upper with an Amendment of a nine months suspending Clause was by me laid aside in order that I may consider it at leisure & have time to know your Ldps Sentiments thereon, but concerning this Bill & the other Transactions of the Assembly I must decline writing fully till the next Opportunity, & at present proceed to inform your Ldp of a matter I have not touched on in either of my Letters to M^r Hamersley. Your Ldp will be pleased to observe then that